SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — August 7, 1972

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

In four months of offensives and uprisings

POWERFUL BLOWS AT THE US "VIETNAMIZATION" POLICY

* An important change to the balance of force between us and the enemy

- 220,000 enemy troops put out of combat including 20,000 captured
- 6 infantry divisions, 30 regiments, 155 battalions, 10 armor regiments, 20 artillery battalions of the puppet main force knocked out or trounced
- 5,400 military vehicles among them 1,800 tanks and armored cars seized or destroyed
- 1,300 aircraft brought down or destroyed on the ground
- 310 war vessels and combat launches sunk

* Over 2,000,000 people rose up and regained control of their villages and hamlets

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A well-concerted battle fought by infantry and armor troops in Western Highlands front

AMERICAN DESTRUCTION OF QUANG TRI CITADEL DENOUNCED

THE Foreign Ministry of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam issued on July 30 a statement denouncing the US for using bombs, shells and chemicals to destroy the ancient citadel of the Quang Tri provincial capital.

The statement said:

"Following their savage bombing on July 12 and 16 on Quang Tri citadel, the US imperialists for 5 consecutive days from July 24 to 28 mustered hundreds of tactical planes of various types and dozens of warships to concentrate bombings and shellings on the citadel with intent to destroy this ancient monument.

In only 5 days, they dropped hundreds of tons of bombs including big-sized demolition, blast, dart, napalm and CS-filled bombs and fired tens of thousands of cannon shells on the citadel, destroying many portions of its wall and many monuments and dwelling houses inside it. US bombings and shellings also devastated many dwelling houses in the surrounding streets and killed many civilians".

"These extermination bombings and shellings against the newly liberated provincial capital and the ancient Quang Tri citadel covering barely 3 square kilometres are an extremely criminal war act on the part of the Nixon administration, a brazen and insolent challenge to public opinion at home and in the world and a gross violation of international law and human conscience," the statement stressed.

The statement demanded the US government to immediately stop its war acts, put an end to its war of aggression in South Viet Nam, give up its "Vietnamization of the war" policy, end its war of destruction and other war acts against the DRVN, seriously negotiate at the Paris conference on Viet Nam and positively respond to the RSVN PRG's seven-point solution the two key points of which have been elaborated.

The statement called on the governments of various countries, political, social and religious activists, peace- and justice-loving scientists, and the people all over the world including the American people to take timely, resolute and effective measures to stay the bloody hands of the Nixon administration.

MORE US-THIEU CRIMES IN LAST QUARTER

"Bombs for peace!", that is Nixon's policy. Two children killed by US napalm at Trang Bang (Tay Ninh).

Intensified use of air and naval force

FACING the total bankruptcy of "Vietnamization," the Nixon administration has been feverishly stepping up its aero-naval war, piling up heinous crimes against the South Vietnamese. It has brought to the highest ever level its air and naval build-up in Viet Nam, Indochina and South-East Asia: from 40 to over 200 B-52s, from 200 to more than 1,000 jet fighters, from one to 8 aircraft-carriers, and the number of war vessels and other war equipment considerably increased compared with previously.

Apart from deploying all kinds of aircraft including B-52s against newly-liberated provincial and district capitals and populated areas such as Dong Ha, Quang Tri, Bong Son, Tam Quang..., the Nixon administration has also ordered artillery shelling from war vessels off the Viet Nam coast. Within only 80 days (from March 30 to June 20, 1972), about 218,700 tons of bombs (including 146,700 tons by B-52s) were dropped on South Viet Nam, causing serious losses in lives and property to the civil population.

Increasing massacres

On the night of May 9, 1972, US aircraft conducted 27 strikes along the northern side of My Chanh River (Thua Thien province), and over 10,000 artillery shells were slammed on population centres there, completely levelling an area of 8 square miles. In Quang Da province, in the early days of May, US aircraft and artillery on many occasions attacked Phu Da and Xe Nuoc resettlement centres in Duc Duc, exacting a toll of nearly 100 civilians. From May 13 to 20, the Hon Lep, Hon Mon, Ca Re and Long Phung resettlement centres and surroundings of Gia Vut area, Ba To district (Quang Ngai province) also came under air and artillery assaults and suffered hundreds of casualties. In Phu Yen, the Pak Jung Hi mercenaries in a prolonged raid from May 6 to 9 against Hoa Tan village (Tuy Hoa district), burned down 200 houses and killed at a time over 100 civilians. In Kontum, Kon H'ring, the bombing of churches, schools and populous areas on May 27 inflicted over 300 dead, mostly women and children. In Tay Ninh, American aircraft and US-Saigon troops mounted a series of raids on Ben Cau area, causing heavy damage to the local people. On April 27, a US air strike against Long Thuan "strategic hamlet" killed more than 100 people, completely demolished the Long Thuan Cao Dai Holy See and over 100 houses.

In Vinh Long, GIs and soldiers of Saigon Company 315 stationing at Nha Dai market, in an action against Hieu Trung and Hieu Nghia hamlets (Vung Liem district) bayoneted or stabbed to death 20 people.

In many places of Ben Tre, Vinh Long and even populated areas of the Mekong Delta and close to Saigon US fighters including B-52 planes flew round-the-clock bombings and strafings, killing hundreds of civilians and destroying thousands of dwellings and large areas of rice fields and gardens.

Exterminating air attacks on several populous areas and fertile land of South Viet Nam are daily occurrences. In only a short period, US aircraft ravaged vast regions seriously affecting the human and natural environment. Natural calamities caused by US massive bombings such as floods, drought... constitute direct threat to the people's life in South Viet Nam.

Stepped-up repression and terror, forcible migration and impress

The US-Thieu clique have also carried out a series of "mop-ups" to force people to resettle in other places and impress them in the army. Tens of thousands of house-searches, round-ups and arrests have taken place everywhere. In some weeks, Thieu police undertook nearly 5,000 sweeps. Thousands of students and intellectuals were apprehended right in Saigon. On May 24 alone, they savagely repressed a peaceful demonstration by Saigon students, abducting 170 participants. In Hue, the number of Buddhist believers arrested and detained by the quisling authorities rose to 1,300, over 860 of whom were deported to Poulo Condore (Con Son) Island. In Dalat, nearly 150 pupils and students were taken into custody in the first days of April, and in Can Tho over 500 people were arrested on April 5 and 6 alone.

For more brutalities against the people, the Thieu clique promulgated on May 9, 1972 nine fascist measures. They ordered the forcible enrolment of people between 17 and 43 of age. Only one week after the enforcement of the fascist law, 1,679 youths and men in this age group in South Viet Nam were drafted into the army. At present, hundreds of students, Buddhist believers and intellectuals are victims of arbitrary arrests, and aircraft are also used in round-ups and deportation. According to preliminary reports, C-130 transport planes have in the past three months taken 5,000 people to unknown destination and 10,000 others to Poulo Condore and other remote islands. The number of forced evacuees in northern provinces of South Viet Nam ran as high as 10,000.

Repression of the press, terror against patriots

In disregard of public protest at home and abroad, the US-Thieu clique have been intensifying repressive actions against the press and patriots in South Viet Nam. According to initial statistics, in the past three months, Saigon papers have been 350 times confiscated or fined by the Saigon administration. On April 3 alone, 17 paper issues were seized. In May, 165 others were banned. Many pressmen were fined or put in jail among them, Reverend Father Chan Tin and writer Ngo The Vinh...

As for the patriots now detained by the quisling regime in South Viet Nam, beside illtreating them, the US-Thieu clique also have submitted them to all kinds of savage tortures or secretely liquidated them. One case in point was the killing or wounding with gunshots of over 70 inmates of Phu Quoc prison on the night of May 6, 1972.

As for patriotic intellectuals and students in South Viet Nam, the US-Thieu clique have been seeking all possible means to smear, apprehend and even assassinate them... The most recent murder of Student Nguyen Thai Binh, just graduated from a US university and on his flight home, was a sinister instance.

All such barbarities of the US-Thieu clique have further aggravated the already strained situation in South Viet Nam, and cause more innocent deaths in all cities and areas still under their control.

(From the July 4, 1972 Communique of the Committee for Investigation of the US-Saigon Crimes in South Viet Nam)

SAIGON QUISLING ADMINISTRATION, a corpse in decomposition

WITH guns, dollars and most atrocious and machiavellian measures, the warlike bosses of the White House and Pentagon have rigged up the Saigon administration, put on it a "for the people" and "from the people" face to turn it into an efficient tool for the realization of US "Vietnamization."

Immediately after entering the Saigon quisling presidency, Nguyen Van Thieu has sought to muster support by setting up a series of political parties, trade-union organizations, "fronts," "councils," and so on. But all his schemes have been labour lost. The stool-pigeon nature of Tran Quoc Buu has been laid bare by almost all trade-union federations. The Christian Confederation of Labour, set up by him to disrupt and split the Saigon working class' ranks and files, has been boycotted. The political parties, "fronts," "councils" and even the Saigon "national assembly" not only cannot rally the reactionary force as the core of the Thieu regime, but instead become the places where the hirelings of the US get at one another's throat in a scramble for power and positions.

Especially since the wave of powerful offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam PLAF and people in early April 1972, the rottenness and depravity, the weakness and estrangement of the Thieu administration have been more apparent than ever before. The quisling administrative system from hamlet, village up to district and province levels has been shattered by big chunks. The topmost ringleaders, in utter confusion, have been wrangling with, and shifting the blame on, one another in face of their bitter defeats in Quang Tri, High Plateaux, An Loc, Phuoc Tuy, Binh Dinh....

Sackings and internal purge of dozens of generals holding key positions in various military zones, tactical areas and provinces... have continually taken place. Inner dissensions and quarrels within the administrative machinery have become ever bitterer since Thieu's grasping of all powers. In disregard of the "Lower House"'s rejection, the "Upper House"'s endorsement with a 27/60 vote and the latter's president's protest to Thieu against this illegal and invalid passage, Nguyen Van Thieu on June 28 signed and declared immediate validity of the "delegating" law which gave him full powers on security, national defense and financial matters for 6 months.

In his losing posture, the more frenzied acts Thieu resorts to, the clearer he exposes his dictatorial, fascist, anti-national and anti-popular colours.

Shortly after the promulgation of his "nine security measures," Thieu has lowered the Saigon currency exchange rate (to 425 piastres to a dollar), signed a decree on "drastic steps" to "ensure security for the rear." All these moves do not demonstrate the Saigon administration's strength, but on the contrary, testify to its failure, weakness and utter isolation. People in the areas still under US-Thieu control, irrespective of their political tendencies, religious creeds, professions and parties..., have stood up to grimly resist them. In the first week of July 1972, 7,000 Saigon students having their names on the draft list, tried with all means to oppose draft. 30,000 candidates to the Baccalaureat indignantly bared US-Thieu impress and declared that whether passing or failing their exams, they were resolved not to report to recruiting offices, and if impressed in the army, they will take antiwar actions. 17 trade-unions in Saigon, workers at the "Scovina" textile enterprise, the Long Binh logistic base, the Shell oil company, the power, water and transport services in Da Nang have strongly come out against their capitalist bosses' colluding with Thieu in repressing and dismissing workers for recruiting purposes, demanded jobs for employees and a wagelift to meet the rising cost of living. Five Cao Dai Organizations held an emergency meeting against Thieu's forcing their believers into the army. 11 Catholic priests in Saigon signed a communique denouncing Thieu and his agents in the localities for arbitrarily apprehending and detaining people.

The Buddhist circles of An Quang Pagoda also sent a deputation to meet Thieu and protest the induction of Buddhist believers.

THE ground is burning under the Thieu administration. Storms and typhoons are raging on their heads. The fartner they stubbornly rush onto their criminal path in execution of US "Vietnamization," the nearer their doom. As for the urban population, the longer they confront "Vietnamization," the better they understand that the Thieu administration is really a creature of the US. It can exist and commit its crimes only thanks to US weapons and dollars. The US is facing defeat, "Vietnamization" is being frustrated, the Saigon quisling administration is nothing but a decaying corpse. Only by standing up to completely foil "Vietnamization," chasing the US aggressors out of our beloved land and building a tripartite national concord government, can our earnest aspirations, namely peace, independence and national reunification, be achieved.

AI THI

Mutual assistance in struggle: MIC workers in Saigon support Vimytex workers' strike

in the cities

• On July 15, Thieu signed a new decree banning all strikes, on penalty of prison terms ranging from 6 days to 6 months or a fine of from 5,000 to 100,000 piastres. In virtue of this law, anyone caught out in the streets during curfew hours, between 20.00 and 06.00 hours, will get a prison sentence from 6 days to 2 months or a fine. Thieu also prohibited demonstrations or market strikes. He even allows shooting of people on sight. But his fascist moves are likely to pour oil on the flame of popular protest.

• On the strength of Thieu's martial law, ban on strikes and forcible draft, in the first week of July alone, reactionary employers in Saigon laid off close to 1 000 workers in the 39-43 age group. To stop this practice, on July 9, 1,000 representatives of organized labour in the Saigon-Gia Dinh area met to denounce Thieu for banning all strikes, refusing to outlaw dismissals of workers, imposing restrictions on the latter, and giving the employers a free hand to sack workers to facilitate troop recruitment. The participants in the meeting demanded an end to lay-offs, reinstatement of the victimized workers, lifting of the ban on strikes and cessation of joint oppression and exploitation of workers by the Thieu clique and capitalist owners.

• From July 5 to July 7, the Thieu regime organized baccalaureat examinations with test papers surpassing the standard of the examinees. The bulk of teachers of public and private schools acknowledged that they were not only too difficult but also too long to be dealt with within the fixed time. Pupils, their parents, their teachers and other sections of the Saigon people lashed out at this Thieu trick designed to fail some 30,000 examinees to eventually draft them into the army. The latter declared that no matter whether they passed or failed their exams, they would resist draft and summons to camp.

• Recently, the US command in Saigon supplied helicopter crewmen with electric rods. The US military spokesman disclosed that the instruments about one yard long, were meant for Saigonese troops who always scramble for seats in the choppers, thereby overloading them and putting American lives in jeopardy. Earlier, many US helicopters had been equipped with CS gas for similar purposes. This type of gas causes skin and eye inflammation. The measure brings to light us ruthlessness toward Saigonese troops during combat actions.

• Tens of thousands of seminarians of various religions have voiced their indignation at Thieu's July 8 decision to extend the general mobilization order to religious people. Church clergy urged their leader to adop a clear-cut attitude regarding the Thieu clique.

Five Caodaist Holy Sees held an emergency meeting to protest the Thieu clique's drafting of priests into the army and have appointed a delegation to see the quisling prime minister and press for draft exemption for churchmen.

Buddhist leaders met at An Quang Pagoda to condemn Thieu's inducting religious people. They described the move as immoral, and challenge to millions of religious believers and an attempt to undermine religion. The meeting decided to launch a campaign for joint action by Catholics, Caodaists, Hoa Hao, Protestants, etc., for draft exemption for clergymen.

Many Saigon MPs have also come out against the Thieu decision and termed it as contrary to the customs of history and the nation, and as a violation of the freedom of belief and a sabotage attempt of religion.

• After a 4-day leave during which he sat for the Baccalaureat examination, cadet Nguyen Sanh Chinh blew out his own brains with an M.16 automatic rifle for fear of punishment by the school's discipline council. This was the 8th suicide case at the Thu Duc officers' training school since the beginning of this year.

220,000 enemy put out of combat in 4 months

POWERFUL BLOWS AT THE US "VIETNAMIZATION" POLICY

IN the 4 months of relentless fighting since March 30, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people :

— Wiped out and captured 220,000 enemy troops including 20,000 men taken prisoners (among them hundreds of US and puppet officers ranking from lieutenant to colonel) ;

— Knocked out or trounced 6 infantry divisions, 30 regiments, 155 battalions, 10 armour regiments, 20 artillery battalions and many companies of the puppet main force ;

— Put out of action or disbanded 18 battalions, 35 multi-company units, 350 companies and 1,450 platoons and groups of " civil guard " and " militia;"

— Seized or destroyed 5,400 military vehicles among them 1,800 tanks and armored cars, 1,200 artillery pieces of the 105 mm and 175 mm calibers, and captured nearly 35,000 firearms of various kinds, hundreds of thousands of tons of ammunition and a large quantity of military equipment;

— Brought down or destroyed on the ground 1,300 aircraft, sank 310 war vessels and combat launches, exploded 265 fuel, ammo and arms depots, and blew up 200 bridges on important communication lines.

The liberation forces razed to the ground 57 basecamps of from battalion- to division-size units, and destroyed one military port and 8 airfields.

They overran or captured 22 military sectors, sub-sectors and townships, and razed to the ground or forced the enemy to evacuate 1,500 posts.

Over two more million people rose up and seized control over key areas from Quang Nam to Ca Mau.

A detailed report said :

In the past 4 months, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have dealt stunning blows on the Saigon army. All kinds of enemy forces including regular troops, " civil guard " and " militia " and all arms and services of the puppet army have been badly mauled. In particular, the enemy main force have sustained extremely heavy losses. Nearly half of their infantry divisions and more than half of their infantry regiments and battalions were knocked out or decimated. All the remaining units have suffered heavy casualties. Nearly half of their tanks. armoured cars and one third of their artillery units were wiped out. Many heavily fortified lines and defence complexes have been breached or smashed.

In only the first 5 days of their offensive (from March 30 to April 3) the PLAF broke up the strong defense complex of the enemy north and south of Highway 9. Then from April 4 to May 1, they smashed their strongest defense complex in Dong Ha, Quang Tri garrisoned by 6 regiments of the 3rd Infantry Division and the marine and ranger divisions, 4 armour regiments and many artillery battalions.

In Western Nam Bo, in the first few days of April alone, the liberation forces wiped out or heavily trounced 6 multibattalion units, brigades and regiments and many infantry and armour battalions on Highways 22 and 13 (Tay Ninh — Binh Long). On the High Plateaux, in only six hours on April 24, a big base of the puppet 22nd Infantry Division at Tan Canh — Dakto was razed to the ground.

In a series of battles in the plains of Central Trung Bo and the Mekong river delta, the PLAF wiped out important segments of the Saigon regular army. Thus the 40th and 41st Regiments were wiped out in Binh Dinh province and many battalions of the 32nd and 33rd Regiments were wiped out or decimated in Ca Mau province, etc.

Following up their exploit in April including which they wiped out more than 90,000 enemy, the PLAF and people in South Viet Nam in May and June launched repeated attacks on the enemy on all battlefields, killing and wounding more than 100,000 enemy.

In order to beef up the puppet troops, remedy the situation and cope with the liberation forces' attacks, the US-Thieu clique is trying to make up the shortage of troops while conducting pushes into newly liberated areas and trying to take off the pressure from areas under heavy siege. But all their efforts have been futile. Far from improving their situation, they continued to take heavy losses. The PLAF and people in Western Nam Bo repeatedly assaulted and wiped out the enemy on Highway 13 (Binh Long province), Highway 15 (Ba Ria — Long Khanh province). The PLAF and people in the Mekong river delta and the plains of Central Trung Bo continued to develop their offensive, knocking out a large portion of the enemy live force. The PLAF and people in the High Plateaux repeatedly encircled and assaulted the enemy in Kontum province, attacked the enemy on Highways 14 and 19, causing them heavy losses. The PLAF and people in Tri-Thien area have intercepted the enemy violently, dealing hard blows at 2 divisions of puppet paratroops and marines engaged in a nibbling operation in newly liberated Quang Tri province with maximum US air and naval support. Meanwhile, the liberation forces launched repeated attacks on enemy bases on Highway 12 and right in Hue city. Since July, the South Viet Nam PLAF have wiped out nearly 30,000 more enemy, shot down many more war planes, and destroyed and captured a large quantity of war means.

Anti-war actions and surrender involving whole regiments, task force units and battalions took place in Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Kontum, Loc Ninh and other places. In many bases the puppet troops threw their guns and abandoned their artillery pieces and posts. Collective desertions, combat refusals, mutinies and revolts against cruel commanders, occurred even within the regular and regional forces.

With effective support from the People's Liberation Armed Forces, the people in South Viet Nam have risen up. Many more vast areas have been liberated, linking with old ones to form liberated zones covering an entire province or most part of a province, dozens of districts, hundreds of villages and thousands of hamlets. Over two million more people have regained control of their villages and hamlets.

The big, all-round and steady victories of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are powerful blows at the " Vietnamization " policy. They have effected an important change to the balance of force between us and the enemy, and upset the latter's defense posture on the whole battlefield of South Viet Nam.

Ahead !

TWENTY LIBERATION FIGHTERS AT QUANG TRI BRIDGE

IT was past midnight when the whole platoon had to halt on the bank of the river at a ford. The guide, a 60-year-old man with a wrinkled, sunburnt face, looked robust. His two guerilla sons had been killed in action. He clung to his birth place and kept in close contact with the militants. His staunchness was all the more admirable as the enemy's grip was ever so tough and relentless and as he had been in and out of jail several times. He must have an extraordinary revolutionary sense of purpose.

" People here couldn't stand it any longer. They eagerly looked forward to this day ! "

The old man's words moved the fighting men to tears. It was the voice of millions of our fellow-countrymen still languishing in enemy-controlled areas. The battle should be won with flying colours to gladden their hearts.

The whole platoon had taken up position. Thoa, the deputy leader of the company told his men, " The enemy is now in a losing posture. We have gained the upper hand and are on the offensive. The adversary may still put up a tough resistance. So we must hit hard and overwhelm them right at the start. Once the bridgehead is established, we must swiftly strengthen our foothold and stand ready to beat off all their counter-attacks. "

At daybreak, a jeep with several Americans on board sped towards the city, coming from Ai Tu base. Just as it stopped at the checkpoint on this side of the bridge, Thoa gave the go-signal. Two B-40 anti-tank shells released by squad leader Hoang Van Phuong and the combatant Ha Trong Nguyen struck the car and nearby tanks and cut down four US advisers and a Saigonese officer.

" Fire ! " shouted squad leader Le Van Xuyen. B-41 gunners of squad No.6 pressed their triggers. Two shells were slammed in an encampment of Saigonese rangers. Before the latter could react, a combat team led by platoon leader Hai Quoc Ca fell on the guards, knocked them out and captured the pillbox at one end of the bridge. Two other teams under the command of deputy company leader Thoa crossed the highway and overran the sector. From all sides, the enemy blazed away and within minutes their artillery concentrated their fire on the bridge area. Thoa ordered his men to fan out and make use of the enemy fortifications. Liberation gunners immediately swung into action, overpowering the enemy and providing effective cover for the infantrymen to push on.

A Saigonese ranger battalion was moved in from Nhan Bien, in two prongs. Squad leader Nguyen Khac Huynh ordered his men to open up. When the enemy columns came within the most effective range, the liberation men greeted them with automatic arms fire, mowing down one group of assailants after another. The counter-attack was foiled. The survivors pulled back for replenishment, then made another attempt. They still failed to inch forward after sustaining many fatalities. From the city, a tank-led battalion was sent out on a relief mission. Tanks were deployed along the river bank and turret guns belched fire to support the bridge-crossing infantrymen. Deputy platoon commander Nguyen Van Nghi signalled to his men to sally. Pham Hong Tien and Trinh Huy Oai left their dug-outs, skirted the roadside and reached a point where they could pump their shells through the middle of the bridge. Following close upon their heels were Han, Vuong and Son. Deputy platoon commander Nghi waved a B-41 gunner forward. An enemy tank appeared at the other side of the bridge. Behind it was a group of infantrymen. A B-41 shell flew across the bridge and sent the tank bursting into flame. And so this new counter-attack was stopped short. Again the adverse artillery barked, rocking the whole battle zone. In the sky, roaring enemy aircraft rent the air. They dropped demolition and anti-personnel bombs. From the other bank of the turret guns from enemy tanks spat fire on the positions of the 20 liberation fighters. Houses, trees, bricks and stones were blasted to pieces. The 20 combatants, nevertheless, stood their ground. Sheltered behind tree trunks, walls, earth mounds and even a water-main, they hurled back all enemy counter-attacks. Still another battalion of rangers was called in from Xuan An. They were also repelled. Our shells landed smack in the midst of the enemy formations. Bodies of rangers littered the roadside. Fighting heated up as the day wore on. Every enemy effort to recapture the bridge-area ran into the grim opposition of our men who were determined not to yield an inch of ground. Some of the Liberation combatants got wounded three or four times. Yet they went on fighting. Their combat strength diminished to some extent but their fighting spirit remained very high. They exhorted one another as they battled on. All members of Platoon 2 built themselves into a brass wall to face great odds.

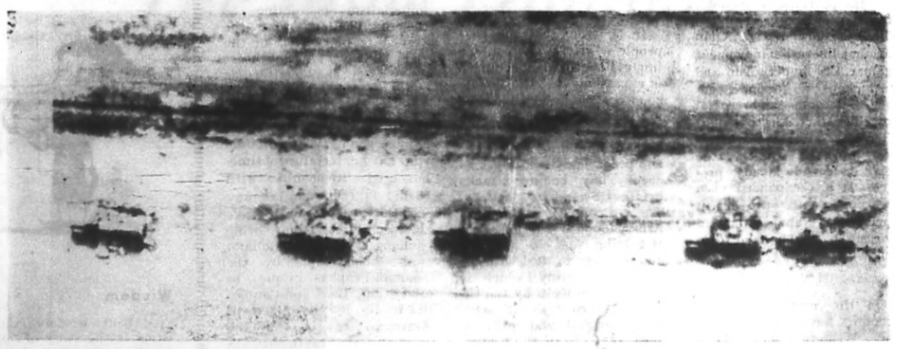
Hard pressed, the enemy got confused. Before nightfall, however, they mustered the remaining force for a final try to dislodge the Liberation fighters from the bridge area. Before launching a many-pronged assault, the enemy troops radioed in their artillery. Barrage after barrage, adverse guns ploughed up the area held by a platoon of patriots. Yet the Saigonese soldiers dared not move forward and only blazed away from a long distance. As no fire was returned, they thought all our men had been killed. They finally rushed out of cover, screaming and gesticulating. But hardly had they crossed the tree line on the roadside when they ran into a hail of small arms fire and hand-grenades.

" Stand up, comrades ! Look straight at them and fire ! "

At this shout of Thoa, Nguyen Ngoc Thanh jumped out onto the ground and pumped machinegun bullets into the midst of the enemy formation. Others followed suit and dashed after the fleeing troops.

Thus ended a day-long battle in which 20 combatants of the PLAF got the better of an adversary force hundreds of times bigger, driving 3 Saigonese main-force battalions out of the bridge area and opening the way for their main unit.

Saigon military convoy destroyed on Binh Long battlefront



New successes of strategic significance

THE current wave of offensives and uprisings of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam has already lasted four months. Devastating blows have been struck at the most important components of Nixon's Vietnamization and foiled its basic objectives, and such unprecedented gains have brought the Vietnamese people's fight to a new high.

Solid defence lines shattered

After their 1971 lamentable reverses on the Route 9-Southern Laos front, on the Highlands and in Northeast Cambodia, the American and Saigon forces had fallen back on the defensive to cope with further onslaughts and insurrections and stave off the total collapse of Vietnamization. One of their main methods had been to concentrate manpower and up-to-date war means on building defence lines in and around key areas in anticipation of attacks from afar by regular units of the liberation forces.

But the hope of the US-Saigon command was quickly dashed.

A dozen strong fire-power bases on Route 9 could not stand for more than three days the shattering assaults of the Quang Tri liberation forces while the outer " iron shield " of Saigon to the north and northwest was peeled off by large bits in Tay Ninh and Binh Long provinces.

Two weeks later all of the main defence lines north and northwest of Kontum (Dakto-Tan Canh) were turned into a shambles.

In less than five days towards the end of April and beginning of May, Saigon's strongest forces on the Dong Ha-Ai Tu-Quang Tri-La Vang front — 6 regiments of infantrymen and marines and 4 armoured regiments — were written off despite powerful US air and naval support.

Meanwhile since the start of the campaign in the Nam Bo plains, adverse outer perimeters from Ha Tien to Long An as well as in the Plain of Reeds and the U Minh Jungle were breached.

Thus all of the enemy's basic tactics, from fortified entrenched camps to fire-bases and mobile armour, came to grief under the impact of the liberation main forces' strikes, which was a significant US-Saigon strategic setback.

The backbone of " Vietnamization " splintered

All enemy arms and services, regular, security and militia forces came under heavy fire during the same period from early April to late July. According to still incomplete figures 190,000 men including hundreds of Saigon and American company officers, 3,600 military vehicles among which 1,600 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, 1,000 ordnance pieces of large calibers were knocked out of action, and 30,000 rifles and guns seized by the liberation forces along with tens of thousands of tons of arms and ammunition and other war materiel. Manpower losses of the Saigon troops were five times larger than on the Route 7-Southern Laos front, on the Highlands and in Northeast Cambodia. Remarkably enough, Saigon's main forces — the backbone of Vietnamization — was splintered with the destruction or mauling of 6 of the 13 regular divisions, including over half of the infantry regiments and battalions.

Never had the Saigon regular forces, in so short a time, suffered so heavy losses in manpower and materials, and experienced so serious disintegration. From the military point of view, the successes of the liberation forces by far surpassed any previous ones in terms of large adverse units destroyed, of their own sustained fighting ability, of their combat efficiency, and in combining destruction of adverse manpower with seizing of power by the people and expanding the liberated zone. Never had the liberation regular forces proved so devastating.

In early 1971, the revolutionary forces mounted a destructive large-scale campaign on the hilly terrain of Route 9. Turning account the experience acquired, they now were active on several theatres at the same time, dealing repeated hammer blows at the enemy :

In three days regular troops in East Nam Bo put out of action 5 armoured task forces and regiments.

In less than one day those on the Highlands knocked a whole division off the strength.

In five days, those in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces wrote off the adversary's strongest force consisting of 6 regiments of ground troops and marines and 4 armoured regiments.

A series of other similar battles were fought, each of which resulting in the destruction or decimating of at least a regiment, such as at Hoai An, Duc Duc, Tam Quang, Bong Son (Binh Dinh), Ba Thuy, Nong Can (Ca Mau), Cai Lay and Cai Be (My Tho).

Thus, not only on the hills but in the plains and urban centres as well, despite maximum adverse air and naval support, liberation regular troops exacted a heavy toll from their opponents.

The pacification program in jeopardy.

With the help of the liberation armed forces, the people in the three strategic areas — the hills and forests, the plains, and the towns and cities — mounted uprisings and crushed large chunks of the enemy's grip. Well over a dozen military sub-sectors and district towns fell, hundreds of garrisons surrendered or forced to evacuate, a sizeable number of militiamen wiped out, and a major part of the " people's self-defence " set up disbanded. In a short time, pacification and pacification-supporting forces were severely hurt both in strength and combativity.

In Binh Dinh province alone, in April and May the toll ran to 2 regiments of regular troops, 9 battalions and multi-companies of security agents and militiamen and thousands of civil guards and civil servants. In the Mekong delta in Nam Bo plains, boasted by the Americans and Saigon authorities as " completely pacified, " 600 companies and platoons of regulars, security agents and militiamen were destroyed or heavily depleted. As a result, a large number of the posts and a substantial part of the repressive machinery disappeared. In other words, the pacification program—the main strategic measure and foundation of Vietnamization—was badly battered.

American advisers themselves were reported by the London *Daily News* (April 25), as admitting that from 40 to 50 per cent of South Viet Nam no longer remained under the control of the Saigon administration. Their estimate was naturally very conservative.

At present the liberated zone includes rural areas and urban centres, not only isolated villages but whole districts, an entire province with its capital. Extensive and solid revolutionary bases have emerged, forming convenient springboards and a substantial source of manpower and supplies for the people and liberation armed forces.

The above developments have operated a far-reaching change in the balance of forces between the South Vietnamese people and their opponent. The latter's defensive posture has even been upset. The complexion of the war is more favorable than ever before to the people and their armed forces.

The enemy is driven into an impasse, a passive posture while the liberation forces are improving their winning position. Liberation regulars and regional troops are in a better shape and possess stronger and larger bases which gradually gnaw at the adversary's sanctuaries. Those are consequential factors which are powerfully pushing up the South Vietnamese people's patriotic fight against US aggression.

The commentator

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PATRIOTIC STRUGGLE OF THE THAI PEOPLE

THE public is paying more and more attention to the patriotic movement of the people of Thailand, which is part of the Asian national liberation movement against US imperialism and its lackeys and for independence, freedom and social progress. Started in 1950 right after the American infiltration into the country, the drive has made steady progress. It has expanded even vigorously since the armed uprising in Nabua village in Northeast Thailand on August 7, 1965.

Of the movement many accounts have been given by the Western press. The French paper *Politique-Hebdo* on February 18, 1971 wrote: "For many years now Thailand has been in the throes of an 'unofficial' war which since the new American offensive in Laos, has become even fiercer! The guerilla war which is spreading in the rice-growing plains will have a greater strategic role to play." *AFP* reported on January 10, 1972: "So far the 'little war' in Thailand has been confined only to spasmodic skirmishes which, however, have grown in number in the last four years. The average of 6 combats in a month in 1968 has been increased to 17 in 1970." On February 14, 1972, the paper le *Nouvel Observateur* pointed out: "Guerilla warfare has been raging for a year now..., causing many casualties to the Government."

What is significant is that *UPI* quoted on March 2 Thai general Prasarn Raengkla as admitting that the guerillas produced part of their food and the rest was provided them by local sympathizers. He also said that guerillas were equipped with transceivers. The following day the same agency noted: The guerillas have the backing of thousands of villagers, as admitted by the Thai command. They constitute a great labour force, and cannot be said to be numerically inferior or in a losing position as is often thought. In fighting they can be self-sufficient in food and ammunition. *Reuter*, on March 9, said: The guerillas have set up their own administration and appointed village heads of their own choice. Government troops have failed to dislodge them from their places.

It is true that the Thai people's effort against US imperialism and its henchmen is expanding to the whole country. In the new bases of the revolution the people are masters of their destiny. They are building a new life and preparing themselves to check any counter-attacks by the US and its lackeys. The People's Liberation Army, founded not long ago, is gaining fast in strength and is ready to deal with the mercenary army which is armed to the teeth by the US and provided with US artillery, aircraft and officers. With the help of the people, the PLA has won dramatic successes, foiled big operations involving tens of thousands of Bangkok troops, while inflicting heavy losses on the enemy right in his bases in Udorn, Uborn, Utapao, etc.

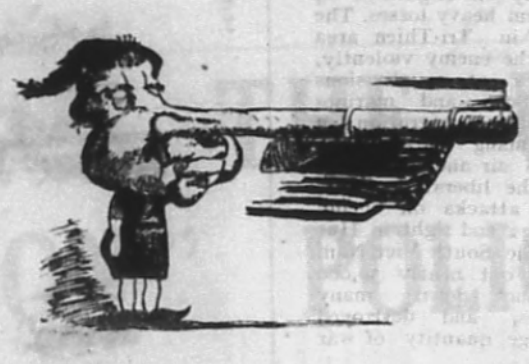
According to *Radio Voice of People of Thailand*, the political movement is mounting with equal vigour under a variety of forms to resist eviction, the building of American military bases and strategic roads, sacking, exploitation, cultural enslavement, forced labour, and recruiting of cannon-fodder for the US in Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. Thousands strong demonstrations have broken out in Bangkok with placards reading "US go home," "US and lackeys will be defeated," "We want a sovereign policy," etc. Intellectuals and politicians have come out more and more strongly against the reactionary policy of the Bangkok rulers. The situation has become so alarming that the Thanom-Praphas clique had to take a drastic move (RVPT called it a farcical coup) early this year to take all power in its hands and strengthen its fascist rule. Nevertheless, as remarked by *UPI* on March 20, the situation has become even worse since.

This is not surprising. Can the Thai people act otherwise now that the Bangkok administration has sold the country's sovereignty to US, allowing the latter to sway it, to destroy brutally its traditional social structure, to undermine the country by means of corruption, prostitution and other evils? Is there any other alternatives for the Thai people when US imperialism is acting as though Thailand were the 51st state of the US or the 2nd Okinawa in Southeast Asia, when Thai territory is being used as a base for the extermination war against the peoples on the Indochinese peninsula, neighbours who have entertained a time-honoured friendship with them? Is there another way for the Thai people to save their children from being exchanged for US dollars, from being sent by the Thanom-Praphas clique to Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia to die in the place of American troops, in the service of the reactionary US policy of pitting Asians against Asians?

The new advance of the Thai people's patriotic drive strikes a very heavy blow at US imperialism which, in a losing situation in Indochina, is making use of Thailand as its last stronghold and Thai mercenaries as its shock force to defend its interests and preserve its rule over this region. The movement has caused additional difficulties to US imperialism and heralded the complete bankruptcy of the "Nixon doctrine" in Thailand, following its failure in Indochina.

The Thai people are giving a great encouragement to the South Vietnamese and the Indochinese struggles for national salvation with their successful fight. The South Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at this fresh progress of the Thai people's patriotic drive, and pledge themselves to remain by their side in the fight against the common enemy — US imperialism and its quislings — and for national independence democracy, peace and social progress. It is certain that the Thai people's cause will triumph.

Here and there...



Wisdom

About wisdom, one of whose distinctive characteristics is the sense of opportuneness. In this respect, no one can beat the US "advisors." The following fact is evidence enough.

During Operation "Lam Son 719" in South Laos and the last assaults of the VC on An Loc, Kontum, Quang Tri (we dont want to go back further), when the fortune of war did not seem to favour the "orthodox" side, the best course naturally was to avoid going counter to the pleasure of eminently temperamental Mars. The wisest thing to do was undoubtedly to hop the twig, and the quicker the better. Hence the frantic calls for choppers and mad scrambles for seats in them, in the moments of truth. OK for the US "advisors" but what about the "allies." Well, what a damned nuisance! There was not enough room for everybody. So what was our "advisors" answer to this headache?

The first consideration was that the life of an "advisor," a depositary of science is far more valuable than that of the "advised," a swarm of ignoramuses or laymen.

The second consideration was that charity should begin at home. Sentimentality and maudlin would be out of place and a sign of weakness.

In view of the above, the US "advisors" decided to leave their "allies" in the lurch and take to their heels alone.

On the tenterhooks

But the trouble was that in the pandemonium, the "allies" suddenly displayed such an attachment to their "advisors" that they hung on to the helicopters' doors or skids at the risk of capsizing them with their overweight or of falling off themselves from the craft (hovering at 6,000 feet mind you), from exhaustion and under the strain of their own weight.

The crash of at least two copters and near grounding of many others have been reported by *AP* (July 13, 1972).

What to do about all that?

Some "advisors," being men of resource, did not think twice before tramping on "allied" hands or kicking "allied" faces to loosen their owners' grip on the planes. But what an inimical behaviour on the part of "allies"!

Better try and find another method.

Eureka!

There is always an answer to every problem for those who take the trouble of thinking.

The same source has let it be known that the use of canisters of CS gas from aerosol bombs had been authorized.

A spokesman of the ground forces (US) was quoted as saying that he was not quite clear how many choppers had received a supply of CS gas. But by late May, early June, a first issue of 100 of such containers was made to fighters in South Viet Nam.

So from now on, "allied" soldiers too fond of their "advisors" are requested to control their inordinate affection for aerial acrobatics on copters' skids will involve very serious risks, owing to the use of one of the latest innovations in chemical warfare.

Eureka again!

A still better trick has been devised.

UPI announced July 17, 1972 from Saigon that the local US command had issued electric rods to choppers' pilots assigned the job of picking up An Loc wounded.

About one yard in length, the "electric rods" were described as one of the security precautions against Saigon soldiers trying to climb onboard already overloaded helicopters, thereby endangering the life of US personnel. It was an unveiled warning to would-be aerial acrobats, wasn't it?

There are people who think that such a measure ill suits the principles of US-Saigon friendship but aren't they a bit short-sighted?

"He who loves gives a good hiding, he who hates gives a good feed", goes a Vietnamese saying, which means something like "spare the rod and spoils the child" in English.

HUONG NAM

The same criminal: US IMPERIALISM

THE Japanese press reported at the end of last year the death of little Vakihiro Mialasaki, born 10 years after the dropping of the two American A bombs on Japan in 1945. His parents were exposed to atomic radiation and himself had a cancer in his lymphatic glands.

Vakihiro Mialasaki's was not the only case ; each year hundreds of people still die from exposure to various forms of radiation. According to recently published statistics, 200,000 persons are reported to be on the list of victims and half of them are cripples for want of medical care.

Who knows how longer the effects of US crimes will last? How many more Japanese generations will still have to suffer from calamity ?

The problem does not end there. The authors of the abominable mass killing do not stop at other crimes, as has been substantiated by history in the last quarter of century : in Asia, in the Mildle East, in Africa, in Latin America, everywhere can be seen their blood-stained hands. Confronted with the tumultuous upsurge of the progressive forces of democracy, peace and national liberation, exhausted by their unjust war in Viet Nam and Indochina which generated insoluble difficulties for them, they have spawned the co-called Nixon doctrine. This came after many changes in their reactionary global strategy which has shifted from naked aggression to carefully camouflaged assaults : pious professions of "peace" and "negotiations" have been going hand in hand with ballyhooed promises to "diminish commitments" and "withdraw troops" from this or that part of the world. But what world public opinion has not failed to notice is that in their Viet Nam war the crimes committed are ten times more monstrous than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki slaughters.

Who knows what will be the aftermaths of an extermination war—of the US genocide, biocide and ecocide in South Viet Nam, even if this war may end today? Yet this still remains a hope, for the war is being prosecuted and enlarged by Nixon in the whole of Indochina to an unprecedented violence. War waged with hardware, chemical warfare, in which all means—short of nuclear bombs—are used : Nixon is piling up new crimes in Viet Nam and Indochina—crimes that surpass in atrocity these committed under previous US presidents, even under Hitler. He has ordered the bombing of dykes and is contemplating the use of meteorological warfare in South Viet Nam, with a view to killing millions of people at a time and to creating famine and epidemics that may cause the death of tens of millions of others.

Clearly enough, the man-eating monster who hit at Hiroshima and Nagasaki 27 years ago is still there. The only difference is greater perfidy and lethal capability with more efficient weapons, products of misused science and technology. It is a great mistake on the part of certain people to believe that the wild beast has changed into a meek lamb.

It is equally clear that the US imperialists, in their increasing weakness all over the world and irretrievably losing posture in Viet Nam and Indochina, nevertheless continue to try, with a maximum of savagery to force on the South Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples conditions that would help impose US neo-colonialism in this area and impede the ebullient trend of national liberation, democracy and progress throughout the world.

But the White House and Pentagon bosses should nurture no illusion about their push-button atomic war. This epoch is no longer theirs. The South Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples' resolve to hold them in check and reconquer genuine independence and free om is unshakable. The successes in South Viet Nam and Indochina are firing the whole mankind into stepping up the common fight against imperialism, old and new colonialism headed by the US imperialists, enemy number one of all nations, for independence, freedom, peace and social progress. The crimes and dark designs of the Nixon clique are being strongly scored in all continents, including the United States. Progressive mankind—and the American people alike—is resorting to all kinds of action to stay Nixon's bloody hands. The current Tokyo International Conference against A and H Bombs is an important contribution to this common fight. Meanwhile, the diseases inherent in the US society, and its compounded difficulties are at work in this year of Presidential elections and new expenditures for the hopeless air war are exacting more billions of dollars from the US tax-payers' pockets.

White House and Pentagon computers can supply Nixon with only this solution to his problems : total failure!

US imperialism is sliding down a slope. A ready grave is awaiting it. Even when it is buried, history will still recall with a shudder its horrible crimes and mankind will keep cursing it as it has other war criminals.

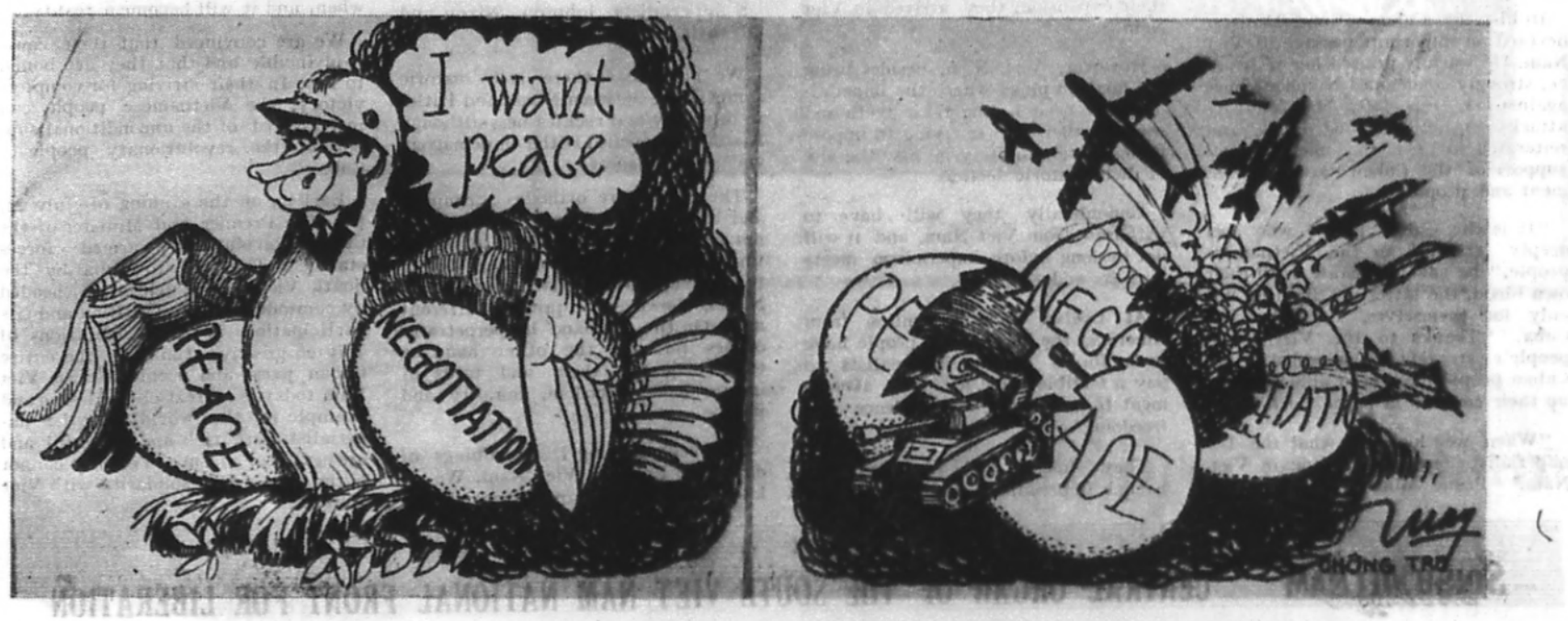
Accomplices of the US imperialists should also be stigmatized. Tanaka, Japan's new Premier, was reported by *AFP* on July 19 as having declared that Japan and the United States are inseparable siblings, the United States being the big brother. Two months ago, the then ruling Sato clique also states that in the present circumstances, US blockade of North Viet Nam ports was something unavoidable (*AFP*, May 12). The reactionary rulers of Japan have always been toeing the US line and helping it grow wealthy at the cost of Vietnamese and Indochinese blood. Shame on them who are ready to sell out Japan's national sovereignty, oblivious of the implacable hatred of the Japanese people for the US imperialists because of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

US-Japan relations are in fact of a very complicated nature. Both sides are bound by a gangsters' agreement. What they have as common objectives and interests is precisely the source of their irreconciable difference.

In advocating the use of "Asians to fight Asians," the Nixon doctrine strives to turn Japanese militarism into a shock force of the defence of US neo-colonialist interests in Asia. The US wants to give Japan the status of an "Asian policeman" at US beck and call. As US designs fall in with the expansionist ambitions of Japan's ruling circles, the latter stick to the US, have extended the Japan-US security treaty and given the US a free hand to use Japan's territory, including Okinawa, as a logistic and operational base in the Viet Nam and Indochina war, in spite of the Japanese people's objection. On the other hand, taking advantage of the losing posture and difficulties incurred by the US in Viet Nam and Asia, they are trying to enlarge their sphere of influence and compete with the US on the economic plane. Contradictions between Japan and the United States are taking shape, but Tokyo is still unable in the present circumstances, to free itself from the control of the US international gendarme. And that is why US imperialism remains the enemy number one of the Asian and world peoples while the Japanese reactionaries are its shock force in Asia.

Progressive mankind is spearheading all its attacks against the principal enemy of mankind, driving him into utter isolation, and foiling his sinister plans everywhere in the world, and especially in Viet Nam and Indochina. It will eventually shipwreck completely his program for world domination through the application of the "Nixon doctrine." The US imperialists are doomed to failure. So are their accomplices, the Japanese ruling circles. The efforts exerted by the Japanese for an independent, fully sovereign, peaceful, neutral and prosperous Japan will be certainly fruitful.

DAI LIEN



SOUTH VIET NAM NFL-PRG DELEGATION PAID A VISIT TO CUBA

AT the invitation of the CC of the Communist Party and the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, the delegation of the NFL and the PRG of the RSVN headed by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh paid a friendship visit to Cuba and attended the anniversary celebrations of the Cuban Armed Uprising there from July 22 to July 28.

Its arrival and its departure were marked by the presence of Prime Minister Fidel Castro, leaders of the C.P., government and mass organizations, the diplomatic corps and some 5,000 representatives of Havanians.

During its stay in Cuba, the delegation had cordial talks with the Political Bureau of the Cuban Communist Party CC, called on Foreign Minister Raul Roa, and visited the historic Fort Moncada, the Siboney State Farm, the History Museum, etc. Everywhere, the South Vietnamese delegates were shown the most vivid demonstrations of comradeship-in-arms like at the big rally marking the 19th anniversary of the Cuban people's armed uprising.

To put it more exactly, July 26th this year in Cuba was observed as a day of solidarity with, and support for, Viet Nam. That day, Jose Marti Square was crowded with nearly one million people. To the left, rising above the sea of faces under the traditional Vietnamese conical hats was a multicoloured poster, 30 yards long and 10 yards high, carrying the portrait of President Ho Chi Minh and the words: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom". To the right, another poster was inscribed with Prime Minister Fidel Castro's words: "Today Viet Nam is the greatest test of proletarian internationalism..." In front of the rostrum was a forest of RSVN and DRVN flags and placards reading "United, Viet Nam and Cuba will win!", "For Viet Nam, Cuba is ready to shed even her blood!", "Down with Nixon, the murderer!", "US, get out of Viet Nam unconditionally!"...

Cries of "Viet Nam! Viet Nam!" rang out from time to time. Loud applause greeted Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh when, together with the presidium of the meeting, she appeared on the rostrum and was formally introduced to the audience, and during her speech.

In his, the Cuban Prime Minister devoted an important passage to Viet Nam. He warmly praised her resistance, strongly condemned Nixon's crimes against her, especially the dastardly attacks on her dams and dykes, and reiterated to her the unconditional support of the Cuban Party, government and people.

"It is the Cuban people who feel deeply grateful to the Vietnamese people," he said, "because with their own blood, the latter are fighting not only for themselves, but also for Cuba." "Thanks to the Vietnamese people's struggle," he added, "the Cuban people have been able to build up their country in peace."

"When we look at what the US imperialists have been doing in Viet Nam," Prime Minister Fidel Castro continued, "at the US 7th Fleet, dozens of US warships, thousands of US aircraft and modern technique and chemical, meteorological and electronic warfare, the most sophisticated innovations of American science deployed against the people of Viet Nam who are 22,000 miles away from the US, and as comrade Minister Nguyen Thi Binh of the RSVN PRG put it, a people who have never done any harm to the American people, we can't help wondering how all that can be justified, morally and politically."

"This is exactly the sequel of imperialist expansionism which began in the middle of the previous century and continued through the end of the century under a more modern form into our time. Successively, the imperialists came to Florida, occupied Mexico, seized the Panama Canal, established their bases in Cuba, and installed neo-colonialist governments to grab all the natural resources, oil fields, banks and public utility facilities in Latin America and other parts of the world. They got hold of Hawai and the Philippines, and finally, in their expansion, they arrived in Viet Nam.

However, Viet Nam, besides being the farthest place where the imperialists have been baring their teeth and showing their claws, trying to impose their rule, definitely is also the site of their historic decline.

Undoubtedly they will have to withdraw from Viet Nam, and it will not be long before imperialism meets with its end.

At twelve thousand miles from America, the Vietnamese people have been forced by the imperialists to pay a terrible price for their attachment to revolution, independence and freedom.

They fought and defeated the French imperialists. And just as comrade Nguyen Thi Binh has stated here, early in 1959, that is at the moment when the Cuban revolution could no longer tolerate humiliation, oppression and crimes, the Cuban people rose up in arms on their own soil where the US imperialists had established their arbitrary rule.

And throughout the years during which we carried out our revolution, the Vietnamese fought against their new oppressors.

As bullies by nature, the US imperialists have bombed the cities, destroyed houses, schools and hospitals and attacked dams and dykes.

We believe that one day mankind will fully realize the blackness of their offences and the similarities between Nixon and Hitler and between the latter's atrocities in Viet Nam and the fascists' in Europe and other parts of the world.

President Nguyen Huu Tho of the Presidium of the SVN NFL C.C. cordially conversed with Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh before she left the liberated zone to return to Paris

One day, memorial monuments will be erected in Viet Nam to recall all these crimes and millions and millions of people will condemn and curse the US imperialists, Johnson, Nixon and all their accomplices.

We hold that there is a historic competition between Nixon and Hitler in brutality and recklessness although Nixon has excelled Hitler in demagogy and shamelessness.

The nazis were orthodox criminals and they did not conceal it. They did not try to style themselves as liberators or to present themselves before the world as civilized people. Mr Nixon, however, is quite a different man. On the one hand he perpetrates crimes but on the other hand he tries to justify them and talks of independence, freedom, morality and justice.

He keeps denying US bombings of dams and dykes in Viet Nam. We all know that dykes are essential, because millions of lives are being protected by a dyke system built throughout 2,000 years to prevent floods frequently caused by the major rivers. Even Johnson did not dare strike at Viet Nam dykes. Nixon persists in his allegations in the teeth of a host of photographs, documentaries and eyewitnesses who are diplomats and visitors to Viet Nam.

We are fully confident that the US imperialists are doomed. There is not a shred of doubt that they will have to quit Viet Nam. This has been confirmed by recent history.

In face of the resistance of a nation like Viet Nam at present, Algeria formely and Cuba in the past century, no war of oppression, no technology, no bombs and shells and no war horrors can subdue or defeat a nation however small but determined to defend its independence and its cause. The Vietnamese people's single-mindedness and heroism have impressed the whole world and enlisted its extensive support.

Today we have just received a telegram from seamen on Cuban ships stranded in Haiphong port since Nixon gave his brutal order. These ships have remained there simply to unload goods even at the risk of getting sunk.

In Viet Nam there are also Cuban nurses and doctors working with the Vietnamese people. In recent days, we have also received solidarity and friendship messages telling of the courage and sense of purpose of these comrades.

Their behaviour reflects our people's affection for Viet Nam, the affection of our workers, peasants, armymen and students. At this square, the workers recently declared their readiness to help rebuild Viet Nam. Pupils of the two most outstanding of our secondary schools have decided to present a Vietnamese school with their prizes. Such tokens of friendship illustrate our people's solidarity with the Vietnamese people, which also finds a clear expression in these familiar words, 'For Viet Nam, we are ready to shed even our blood.'

If need be, our people, workers, youth and armymen, will translate their solidarity with Viet Nam into deeds on the battlefield. Together with the Vietnamese people we are prepared to face every danger. This is no momentary pledge. Let them tell us when, and it will become a reality.

We are convinced that their cause is invincible and that they are bound to win. In their striving for complete victory, the Vietnamese people can rest assured of the unconditional support of the revolutionary people of Cuba."

Earlier, on the evening of July 22, the Vice Premier and Minister of the Cuban Revolutionary armed forces stated, "The visit to Cuba by the South Vietnamese delegation headed by comrade Nguyen Thi Binh and its participation in the celebrations of July 26 greatly stimulate the entire Cuban party and people because Viet Nam today is a great object lesson and example for the world. The US imperialists are rich and powerful and are next door to Cuba. Yet they cannot harm Cuba's deep solidarity with Viet Nam."

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION